



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5734

February Session, 2008

* HB05734TRA 031008 *

**AN ACT CONCERNING NEW AND EXPANDED BUS
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES THROUGHOUT CONNECTICUT.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) There is established the
2 "Buses for 21st Century Mobility" program which shall be
3 administered by the Department of Transportation. Commencing July
4 1, 2008, the Department of Transportation shall accept applications
5 from transportation providers and community service providers for
6 funding to provide new and expanded bus transportation services as
7 part of the Buses for 21st Century Mobility program. Such new and
8 expanded bus transportation service programs shall include, but not
9 be limited to: (1) Programs to provide transportation services for
10 disabled citizens to and from their homes for any purposes required by
11 the Americans with Disabilities Act; (2) expansion of existing services
12 where a demonstrated need has been shown; (3) programs to provide
13 new rail shuttle services to encourage the use of Metro-North
14 Commuter Railroad; (4) express commuter services; and (5) other bus
15 transportation programs designed to increase bus ridership
16 opportunities for Connecticut residents.

17 (b) Commencing July 1, 2008, the Department of Transportation
18 shall accept applications from transportation providers and
19 community service providers for funding to provide new and

20 expanded marketing programs for bus transportation services as part
21 of the Buses for 21st Century Mobility program. Such new and
22 expanded marketing programs shall include, but not be limited to: (1)
23 Web-based programs that would assist Connecticut citizens in finding
24 bus service to and from one location to another, as well as schedules
25 and routes; (2) printed advertising programs providing bus service
26 locations, schedules and routes and information concerning bus
27 transportation services in various communities; and (3) any other bus
28 transportation marketing and advertising programs that are designed
29 to increase bus ridership opportunities within Connecticut.

30 (c) Funding by the department for new and expanded bus
31 transportation services shall be allocated as follows: (1) Fifteen per cent
32 of the funds available for the Buses for 21st Century Mobility program
33 shall be assigned to projects which originate from locations within
34 each of the four counties of Hartford, Fairfield, New London and New
35 Haven; and (2) ten per cent of such available funds for the Buses for
36 21st Century Mobility program shall be assigned to projects which
37 originate at locations within each of the four counties of Litchfield,
38 Windham, Middlesex and Tolland. Services that cross regional or
39 county lines shall be assigned a proportionate share of funding
40 available to each county.

41 (d) The Department of Transportation shall consider, but is not
42 under any obligation to fund, all projects submitted for funding and
43 not fully funded as part of its process to determine how five million
44 dollars in new operating funds could be allocated for the fiscal year
45 ending June 30, 2009. The department shall not require applicants to
46 resubmit proposals for consideration, however, applicants shall be
47 notified and given the opportunity to modify such proposals. The
48 department shall determine the allocation of funds under this program
49 not later than September 30, 2008. Any funds remaining in the Buses
50 for 21st Century Mobility program at the end of a fiscal year shall not
51 lapse and shall be carried forward for the program and available for
52 expenditure for new and expanded bus transportation programs
53 during the succeeding fiscal year.

54 (e) At least seventy-five per cent of the funds available for capital
55 expenditures may be used for the purchase of full-sized and small
56 buses, and smaller vehicles for Americans with Disabilities Act
57 services, services for the elderly and services for rural areas. At least
58 one-third of the funds available for the purchase of vehicles shall be
59 expended for vehicles to provide services in rural areas. The balance of
60 such available funds may be used for capital expenditures associated
61 with the provision of new services, including signage, shelters, and
62 similar amenities. If such funds cannot be allocated in this way, they
63 shall be available for additional vehicles.

64 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2008*) During the fiscal year ending June 30,
65 2009, seven million dollars in operating funds and fifteen million
66 dollars of bond proceeds shall be made available to the Department of
67 Transportation for the operation and administration of such program
68 during said fiscal year.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

Technical and punctuation changes were made for accuracy and clarity.

TRA *Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO*